

Wednesday, September 20, 2023
12PM/11CT

Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation Phone Conference/Webinar Agenda



Discussion

1. Welcome and Announcements – Everyone is invited!
2. Check the listings on the website to ensure your program information is up to date and correct for the quarterly report. If you need to add or change anything, email Lyndi Bradley at lbradley2@fsu.edu
3. **October Phone Conference: October 18, 2023**
4. **Program data is due NOW! Program narratives are due NOW!! See last year's reports below.**
5. Questions from Directors
6. Introduction to Stalking

Your program data and narratives are due NOW!!



REMINDER

Click [here](#) to review last year's annual report.

Click [HERE](#) for last year's Program Narratives.

Program Highlights and Information: 2022-2023

The Institute's Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation is once again preparing a state and federal report that will highlight the many accomplishments and unique endeavors of Florida's versatile Supervised Visitation programs. What Florida's Supervised Visitation programs have accomplished in 2022-2023 is no less than phenomenal and as always, Florida programs have been leaders and innovators setting best practices for so many other programs worldwide. **So this year it's more important than ever that your terrific work be recognized!**

Our 2022-2023 report goes to several state and federal agencies as well as judges in your area. One component will contain a **descriptive paragraph or two** on each individual program, highlighting the program's successes and interesting characteristics. In order to include your program, we would like to ask each of you to provide us with some details on your program - **tell us what makes your program compelling, interesting, or human. For example, tell us how you successfully reunited families, or how you keep your clients engaged in innovative ways. Perhaps there are some wonderful positive elements you discovered using new formats or you've managed to serve even more clients than before!**

- ❖ Other examples: (You won't have all of these, maybe one or two!)
- ❖ How do you make online visits easier for your clients?
- ❖ Do you make to-go toy baskets for families?
- ❖ Do you let clients take toys home with them?
- ❖ Did you connect more family members than you would be able to otherwise?
- ❖ What positive surprises did you encounter – i.e. parents being able to watch their child ride a bike for the first time?
- ❖ Where do you get volunteers from - the Junior League, a local temple/church, a college?
- ❖ Do you have staff who go to the domestic violence docket days to guide the victims to safe visitation (doing intake at the courthouse?)
- ❖ Do you work with the local Latino community and have Spanish speaking staff?
- ❖ Do you have an annual Christmas or holiday party for the families?
- ❖ Do you use volunteers to paint or decorate the rooms?
- ❖ Do you have room themes? Is every room a different theme?
- ❖ Do you have a sign language volunteer who works with the hearing impaired?
- ❖ Do you have special toys for children who are visually impaired?
- ❖ Do you help domestic violence victims make safety plans?
- ❖ How did you help clients with domestic violence feel safe?
- ❖ Do you do cross training with the local court or DV center or child protective agency?
- ❖ Do you exist for a compelling reason, such as because a child was murdered or a woman was attacked during an unsupervised visit?
- ❖ Do you do local presentations to community groups about child safety?

- ❖ Do you have an agreement with local law enforcement, and do they do a walk through of the facility to make sure that everything on the site is safe?
- ❖ Did you recently get recognized by the local paper as a "hometown hero?"
- ❖ Did the director get some type of award?
- ❖ Do you have any annual holiday events?

Please blow your own horn, sing your staff's praises, and tell us what makes your center a very special place for families to get assistance. We'll bring it all together in a new report designed to give funders, judges, legislators, and the public a glimpse into the world of Florida's Supervised Visitation Programs. **Please note that we are not interested in anything related to funding or fundraisers – this is all about your accomplishments and success stories!**

You can complete the attached form, or simply type your narrative in an e-mail and send it back to us at kes2523@fsu.edu Low on time? Just call me and I'll type while you talk. 😊

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

INTRODUCTION TO STALKING

THE CLEARINGHOUSE ON SUPERVISED VISITATION





STALKING IS GENERALLY DEFINED AS:

“a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others; or to suffer substantial emotional distress”

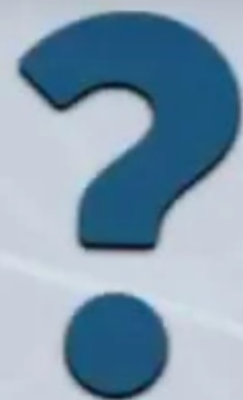
(Stalking Prevention, Awareness, & Resource Center [SPARC], 2022)



Why Learn About Stalking?



Share



Watch on  YouTube

PREVALENCE OF STALKING

**1 in 3
women & 1 in 6 men
experience stalking at
some point in their life**

**Around 13.5 million
people are stalked every
year**



STALKING IN THE UNITED STATES

72% OF VICTIMS WERE THREATENED
WITH PHYSICAL HARM.

84% OF VICTIMS WERE REPORTED
FEELING FEARFUL, THREATENED
AND WORRIED ABOUT THEIR
SAFETY.

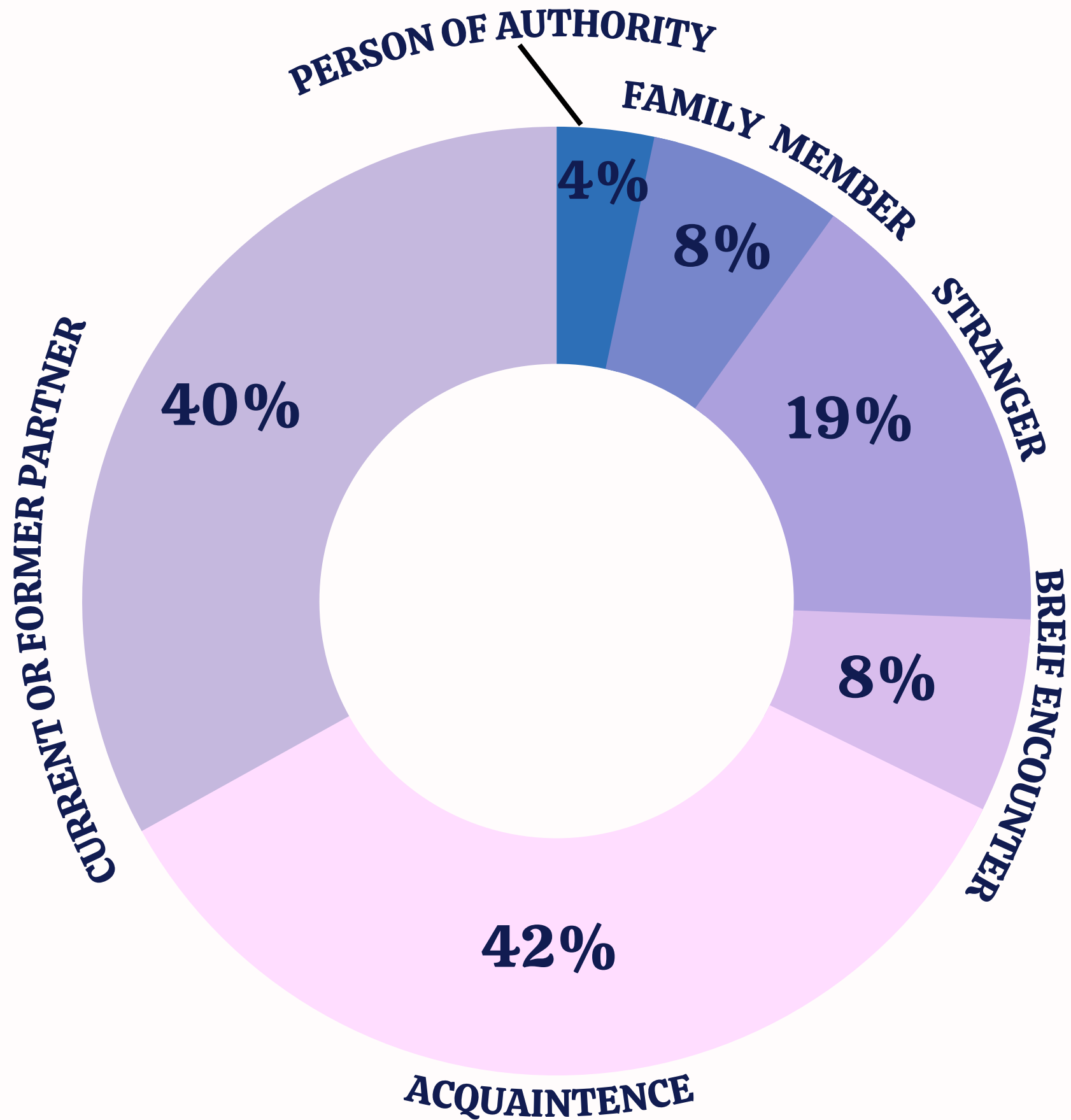
11% OF STALKING CASES LAST LESS
THAN FIVE YEARS.

1 IN 5 USE WEAPONS TO THREATEN
OR HARM THEIR VICTIMS.

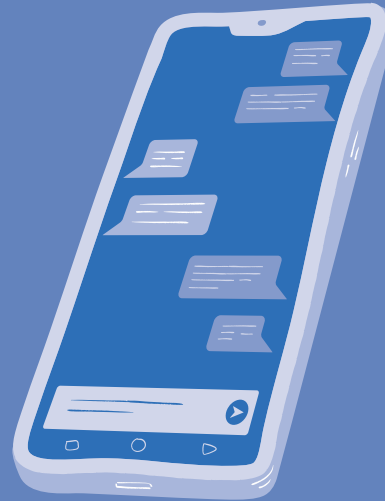
1 IN 7 VICTIMS RELOCATE DUE TO
STALKERS.

1 IN 3 STALKERS HAVE STALKED
PERVIOUSLY.

TYPES OF STALKERS



MOST COMMON STALKING TACTICS



75%

**UNWANTED PHONE
CALLS/MESSAGES**

57%

**APPROACHED/SHOWED
UP WHERE VICTIM IS**

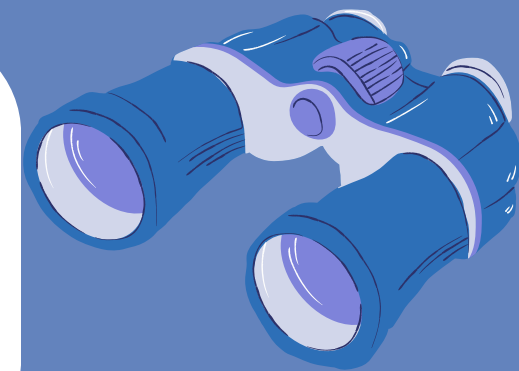


57%

**TEXTS, EMAILS,
MESSAGES**

52%

**FOLLOWED &
WATCHED VICTIMS**



26%

**SEND GIFTS, CARDS,
LETTERS, OR OTHER
ITEMS TO VICTIM**

STALKING CASE EXAMPLE

A 25 year old man and active-duty member of the U.S. Marine Corps was arrested for using an online persona through numerous online accounts to repeatedly stalk, harass, and threaten women who would not give in to his demands. These demands including they send him nude, sexually explicit, or otherwise compromising photos and videos of themselves. In multiple instances, he threatened that, if his victims refused to comply with his demands, he would publish sexual photos and videos of the victims online or on well-known pornography websites and/or distribute the sexual photos or videos to the victims' boyfriends, friends, families or employers, whom he would often identify by name. His cyberstalking, threats, and sextortion demands continued for over a year.

STALKING CASE EXAMPLE

When the victim went on a cruise with her partner and daughter, the perpetrator sent her a message that he was going to be there as well. The perpetrator made it clear that he knew where the victim goes and what she is doing. The messages came in bursts sometimes several times in a day and the perpetrator was present the whole time.

The letter shows quite clearly that the perpetrator has been following victim e.g. as she has taken her daughter to school, has visited the victim's work place and in that letter called the victim especially insulting names and also criticized the victim's new partner.

The victim experienced the perpetrator's behavior as extremely stressful and the victim's hands trembled every time she saw the defendant near her apartment. At times the victim's 17-year-old daughter was also present. The victim stated that this kind of behavior caused feelings of fear and the situation was really rough.

STALKING CASE EXAMPLE

In this case, the parties were divorced, but the perpetrator continued contacting the ex-partner through the children:

The perpetrator used the children to try and get information from them on what the victim was doing and where she was or who was at her place. The victim had to turn off the children's phones when they were with her, as the perpetrator called them numerous times from morning to evening.

Even though he had an apartment of his own, the perpetrator came to the victim's home in a disruptive manner and tried to use their children to let him in the apartment. The victim also said that he followed her in his car, and constantly tried to find out through the children where she was and where she was going.

In the messages sent to the children the perpetrator used negative expressions to refer to the victim and claimed that she was a liar. In part the messages were also coercive.

An additional victim in this case said that she experienced the situation as distressing. She had trouble sleeping because of it. Her daughter was 17 years old and did not want to be at home alone because of the fear that the perpetrator would come visiting.

STALKING CASE EXAMPLE

A perpetrator had been dating his victim for two years, had a child with the victim, and lived in the apartment with the victim. When the victim was at their apartment with their child and family members (including other children) the perpetrator called and threatened to kill the victim and the family members with a gun on speakerphone. The victim and family members fled to another home while the victim received countless text messages with threats to her safety and the safety of her child, including:

“you finna make me come look for you’re a***”

“I love you too much to see u dead dummy. But [I] guarantee u this. I can make u suffer. If [I] want to.”

“Where the f*** are u”

“Cause rode past in seen lights on there”

“Answer my f*** question why is there lights on at the house”

The perpetrator also sent a picture of a handgun to the victim during this time. The perpetrator was arrested.

The victim later testified that the text messages “scared” her and the message “terrified” her because she “knew right then and there that [perpetrator] was going to come after [her] even more.”

THE IMPACT OF STALKING

- **Research has shown that experiencing stalking is associated with immediate physical and emotional impacts.**
- **Stalking victimization has been linked to a variety of chronic physical problems and significant psychological health effects, including psychological distress, PTSD symptoms, and suicidality (CDC, 2021).**
- **Stalking victims can also experience substantial economic costs across their lifetimes due to lost work, medical costs, and criminal justice activities (CDC, 2021).**

STALKING AND RISK FOR HOMICIDE

Stalking is also a risk factor for homicide by a former intimate partner (Campbell et al., 2007). In a study of female victims of intimate partner homicide,

- 76% of intimate partner homicide victims had been stalked by an intimate partner,**
- 89% of intimate partner victims who had been physically assaulted had also been stalked in the 12 months before their murder, and**
- 54% of intimate partner homicide victims reported stalking to police before they were killed by their stalkers.**

(McFarlane et al., 1999)

STALKING PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

Stalking victims reported their most common fears as including:

- Losing their job, losing freedom, losing social support, or losing friends (76%)**
- Not knowing what will happen next (70%)**
- Stalking never stopping (70%)**
- Being killed or injured (67%)**
- Someone close to them being harmed (40%)**
- Losing their mind (25%)**

(Morgan et al., 2022).

STALKING ECONOMIC EFFECTS

- **Victims of stalking are at significant risk of losing economic resources because stalkers often interfere with their ability to work (Logan & Walker, 2017).**
- **Research shows that having access to economic resources is a predictor of separating and remaining separated from an abusive partner (Logan & Walker, 2017).**
- **Stalking is utilized as a tactic of control, economic abuse, and a means of sabotaging attempts of independence of the victim.**

STALKING EFFECTS IN CHILDREN

- **When stalking occurs after separation of intimate partners, children can be directly or indirectly affected (Nikupeteri et al., 2015).**
- **In addition to acts of surveillance, children are often monitored and questioned to try to find out information about the other parent.**
- **Growing up in this environment can create a sense of fear that is long-lasting in children, even after that parent becomes no longer a threat.**

VICTIM RISK FACTORS

The risk factors that increase a victim's vulnerability include:

- **Children in common.**
 - **Sharing children with the offender results in the victim being compelled to interact with the perpetrator**
- **Support issues.**
 - **Having child custody/support issues with the offender increases the likelihood that the victim will be compelled to interact with the perpetrator.**
- **Previous abuse.**
 - **The perpetrator's previous abuse of the victim is likely to have resulted in the victim having fewer resources and deliberately isolated from family and friends who might provide support.**
- **Poverty.**
 - **Victims living in unsafe housing and having limited access to resources.**
- **Limited or no consequences for offender behavior.**
 - **If the offender has not received any consequence for abusive behavior, they may continue to interact with the victim in that way.**

PERPETRATOR RISK FACTORS

- **Previous threats directed toward the victim**
- **History of controlling behavior with the victim**
- **History of violence and abuse directed at others**
- **Other criminal, substance use, and mental health histories**
- **Offender's technical expertise**
- **Offender's mindset**
- **Access to weapons**

STALKING VICTIM LIFE CHANGES

Stalking victims often must change their behavior in response to stalking to increase their safety and cope with their fear. The following actions can show a victim's state of mind. Stalking victims' life changes and accommodations might include:

- **Time spent seeking an injunction**
- **Screening phone calls**
- **Relocation, keeping location secret**
- **Changing phone number, email addresses, social media accounts, blocking access**
- **Time spent accessing support services**
- **Money spent on safety or new accommodations**
- **Increased security or privacy measures**
- **Asking friends, family, or professionals for help**

- **Changes to routine, method of transport, or route**
- **Avoiding locations**
- **Changing daycare or school**
- **Financial loss due to work consequences**
- **Taking steps to remedy identity theft**
- **Informing work, daycare, school, landlord, religious space of situation and asking for accommodations**
- **Costs to repair or replace damaged property or documents**
- **Steps taken to resolve identity theft issues**

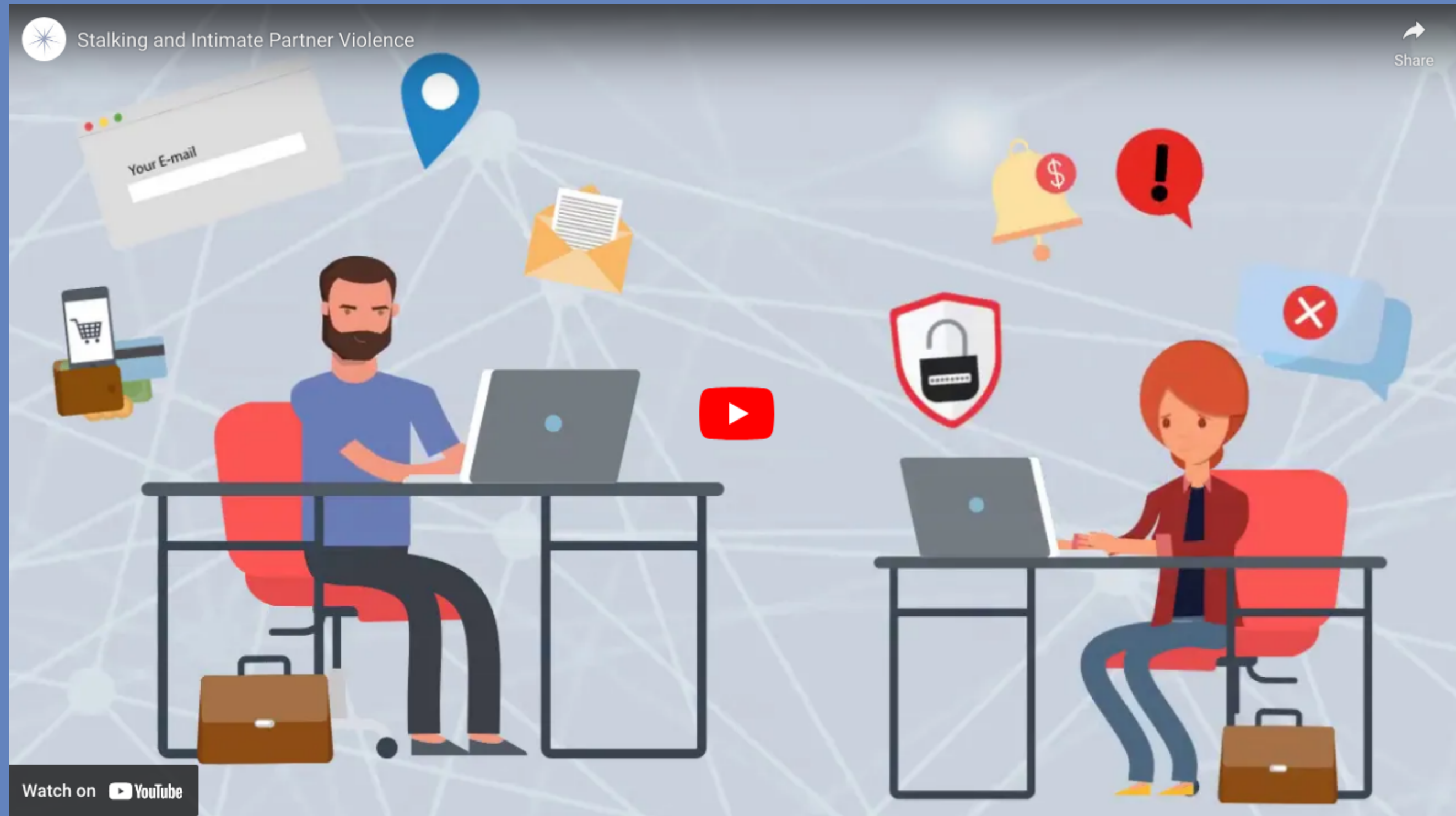
STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **Although stalking is a separate crime, victims of stalking often experience other overlapping crimes such as domestic violence and sexual violence.**
- **These crimes have an impact on victims' physical and mental health.**
- **The polyvictimization of intimate partner violence, in which a victim may experience a combination of multiple forms of partner violence (including physical violence, sexual violence, emotional abuse, and stalking), can have devastating health effects over the course of a person's life.**

POWER AND CONTROL DYNAMICS WITHIN STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **The fear that victims experience often stems from the perpetrator asserting power and control over them (Brewster, 2003). Power and control are commonly associated with domestic and sexual violence. However, power and control dynamics are also seen in stalking.**
- **Research demonstrates that stalkers who were former intimate partners:**
 - **Are more threatening and violent than non-intimate partner stalkers.**
 - **Are likely to reoffend after court intervention and re-offend quicker than non-intimate partner stalkers.**
 - **Engage in stalking behavior more frequently and intensely than non-intimate partner stalkers.**

STALKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



BARRIERS TO HELP-SEEKING

- **Most stalking victims do not report the stalking to the authorities. The victim is more likely to report acts of stalking to law enforcement if the victim has experienced a high level of fear (Randa et al., 2022).**
- **Some barriers that may prevent victims from reporting the stalking include:**
 - **Fear of retaliation from their stalker**
 - **Concerns that they would not be believed by their friends, family, authorities, or even the legal system**
 - **Lack of proof or evidence of the stalking**
 - **Not understanding that their stalker's actions were a crime**
 - **Past negative experience with the police or the criminal justice/legal system**

(Logan, 2010)

SUPPORTING VICTIMS



**Contact the Clearinghouse at
850-644-1715**

